SOUTH VIET NAM *In Struggle*

SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION INFORMATION COMMISSION

4th year

No 71

August 20 1970

ADDRESS:
HT 1217 B-SVN
C/O
DAZIMINA HANOI
19, *Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN*
and all RSVN Embassies, Information Offices in foreign countries.

6 NOV 4-1970
Gen. Copy

editorial

Continuing the August Revolution Tradition

The South Vietnamese people have been winning success after success

TWENTY five years ago, toward the close of August, our people throughout the country rose up to seize power. Heralding the insurrectional tidal wave, on the 11th in Ha Tinh, the 14th in Thai Nguyen and the day after in Quang Ngai, the local people attacked enemy garrisons and liberated many areas. Mammoth successful uprisings broke out in Hanoi on the 19th, in Hue on the 23th, and in Saigon on the 25th.

From towns to countryside, the masses, millions as one man, stood up and wrested power from the hands of the Japanese fascists and pro-Japanese quislings, breaking the shackles of imperialism and feudalism. Thus, thanks to the political strength of the people supported by military and paramilitary forces, the 1945 August Revolution was brought to success from north to south. Under the impact of popular effervescence, Bao Dai abdicated, the pro-Japanese government surrendered, and on September 2, the Provisional Government was proclaimed. At the historical Ba Dinh Square, President Ho Chi Minh read the Declaration of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

An epoch-making event, **"the August Revolution overthrew the millenary monarchical regime, shattered the almost 100-year-old colonial fetters, brought political power to the people, and laid the foundation for the DRVN, for independence, freedom and happiness"** *(President Ho Chi Minh's Political Report, 1951).*

The August Revolution was a victorious uprising of the people in a colonial and semi-feudal country which had gone through the long growth of political struggle into armed struggle, crushed the rule of imperialism and feudalism, and established a democratic people's power. It has ushered in a new era in the history of Viet Nam, era when the masses become the master of their own destiny.

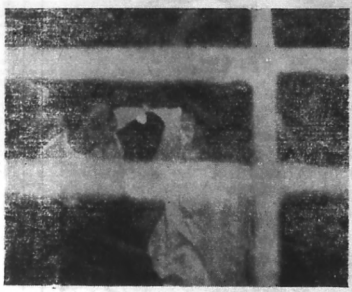
(Continued page 4)

Generation after generation strike the Revolutionary road
Dr Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the Presidium of the Central Committee of South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation amidst outstanding PLAF young fighters.

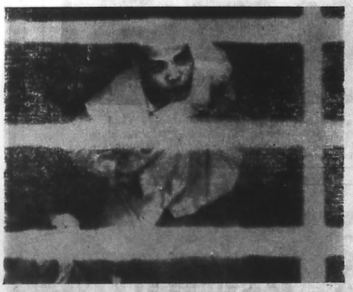
LONG LIVE THE AUGUST REVOLUTION!

UNDER THESE RAILINGS ARE MEN IN CAGES

Two rows of underground cells with barred ceilings: "Tiger cages."



Half of the "tiger cages" population were women. In the photo, these bars which seem whitewashed are in fact covered with quicklime sprayed by warders on detainees when the latter staged a protest.



This prisoner was a Buddhist monk arrested in 1966 for having preached for peace. Other detainees were students. In these pits of 2.7 metres long, and 1.5 metres wide; they lived on a tiny ration of rice mixed with sand. In some "tiger cages" the prisoners were shackled.

THE TIGER

***Editor's note:** Recently, we have received from Mr Don Luce, a member of the US Congressmen's delegation having visited the Con Son (Poulo Condor) "tiger cages", an article large excerpts of which are given below.*

'THE tiger cages existed during the time of the French. It was the most inhuman kind of treatment you can imagine. Prisoners were shackled to iron bars in tiny cages and deprived of physical necessities and human dignity. But these cages no longer exist.'

This was the official position of prison authorities in Viet Nam before a Congressional committee. The committee included Congressman Augustus Hawkins of the Los Angeles Watts area, Congressman William Anderson, former commander of the Nautilus submarine, Thomas Harkin, a congressional aide, and myself. A group from the US Public Safety office accompanied us.

Con Son prison is located in the South China Sea approximately 140 miles south-east of Saigon. It is Vietnam's largest civilian prison, having 9,916 prisoners as of June 1970 according to the US Public Safety Director in Viet Nam. Its seven camps have a total capacity of 9,750 inmates (about 2,000 trustees now have housing outside the seven camps). The prison was established in 1862 by the French. Sometimes called 'Devil's Island', mention of the name Con Son brings fear to most Vietnamese. Although Ho Chi Minh was never imprisoned there, it was also called 'University of Ho Chi Minh' because so many of its 'graduates' changed from a strong anti-communist position when they entered to joining the Viet Minh on their release.

No, Con Son is not like Alcatraz or a 'Devil's Island', claimed Frank E. Walton, Director of the US Public Safety program in Viet Nam at the beginning of the trip, commenting: 'This (place) is more like a Boy Scout Recreational Camp.'...

AS the airplane approached the beautiful island of Con Son we read the prepared briefing:

'The Con Son Island National Correction Center, located in the South China Sea approximately 140 miles south-east of Saigon, is Viet Nam's largest correctional institution. Established by the French in 1862 as a penal colony, it has long held a reputation of being a "Devil's Island". This reputation still prevails, in spite of an enlightened and modern administration of the facility.'

We were perplexed. Former inmates had related tales of horror, yet the American advisors spoke in glowing terms. Other investigation teams had found nothing. No Westerners had seen the cages since the time of the French (or at least none would confirm their existence). 'There are no tiger cages. Only a thing of the past,' everyone had been told who had visited the island by the officials. Yet they had left unconvinced because the prisoners on the island had told them secretly 'you must see the tiger cages.'

At 9:58, after a twenty minute drive from the airport, we began discussions with the Chief Warden, Col. Nguyen Van Ve. We talked about the plane ride and the beautiful island. 'Con Son means Mountain Island,' Col. Ve explained cordially. At 10:10 a prison guard brought us café filtré — the kind of coffee that drips slowly into your cup drop by drop while you wait. The conversation went on slowly. At 10:25 Thomas Harkin abruptly changed the discussion about the weather and mountain. 'Would it be possible to talk to some individual prisoners,' he asked.

'Why, yes, of course,' Col. Ve said in his impeccable English, smiling. He could arrange that.

'We have a list of names of people we would like to see,' Harkin said. 'These are some people we have learned are here and we would like to see them.'

A cloud passed over the face of Col. Ve as he reached over to receive the list of six names.

'You must have permission from the Ministry of Interior if you want to see specific individuals,' he said after reading the names. 'You can't just come here and see anyone you want. This is a prison.'

'We have come to investigate all aspects of American aid here and we would like to get as accurate a picture as we can,' Congressman Hawkins explained. 'Perhaps you could telegram the Ministry of Interior to ask permission.'

At this point, Frank Walton, the top US prison advisor commented angrily: 'We thought this trip was above-board. If you had wanted to see specific individuals, you should have informed us first. This is sneaky and unethical.'

Col. Ve then reverted to Vietnamese, using the US Public Safety Division's interpreter to translate. 'I'll send a message to the Ministry of Interior, but they cannot respond before eleven o'clock when you are scheduled to leave for Saigon.

'Oh, we can stay a few extra minutes,' Congressman Hawkins said. 'Perhaps we can go to see the prison wards now. Do you have a map of the island showing the location of the camps?'

'I'm afraid we don't,' Colonel Ve said. When questioned further, Col. Ve explained in Vietnamese that the camps were so small and the island so big that the camp locations would seem insignificant on a map of the island. But before this was translated, Mr. Walton interrupted and explained that security reasons did not allow them to make such a map. 'The VC might get hold of it and come and release all the prisoners.'

It was now 10:40 and, according to our schedule, we were supposed to leave to catch the plane. At that point Col. Ve went to his desk to give final instructions on sending the telegram to Saigon to get permission to see the specific six prisoners. 'Whether they (Saigon) answer or not is not important,' he told his aide in Vietnamese who was questioning the wording. (At this point, they still did not know that I spoke Vietnamese.)

'Why don't we go over to the curio shop?' Mr. Walton suggested. 'They have some really nice things like the swagger stick that Col. Ve has. It's just across the road. It would be nice for you to have some souvenirs to take back to the US.'

'I'd like to see the prison camps,' Congressman Hawkins replied. 'We can pick up the souvenirs when we finish the tour of the prison sites.'

CAGES OF POULO CONDOR

THE group then loaded itself into three jeeps and went to camp number 2. The prisoners were lined up, faces tightened into stiff, frightened masks.

At the infirmary, medical care to the prisoners was explained.

'We have a doctor who treats each patient separately. Medical care here meets modern standards.'

The sick prisoners were asked a few questions by the congressmen:

'Do you get enough to eat?'

'Yes, plenty. Rice, dried fish, and vegetables,' one answered.

'Do you receive medicine?'

'Yes, we get medicine every day.'

As the questioning went on, I wandered over and talked to a man alone. He told me:

'I am a political prisoner from the time of Diem. I have no idea when I'll be released. It is so bad here. Do you see the man who is so sick? He has received no medicine until today when they put the bottle with water up (a dextrose bottle was being used to feed him intravenously). That was for you to see. No medicine. No vegetables...'

At this point a guard came up and he continued:

'Everything is quite good here. It's not like the mainland but we have plenty to eat and the people here are kind.'

As I walked away, he pleaded with his frightened eyes.

That was the first time that the prison administration realized I spoke Vietnamese. From then on they made a desperate attempt to keep me from speaking to any prisoner alone.

In response to a question about whether the inmates had a chance to play sports, Randolf Berkeley, Chief of the Corrections and Detention Division of the US Public Safety advisory program, said:

' Old Ve often plays soccer with the prisoners. He is so well liked.'

'I play soccer with them on Sunday afternoon,' Col. Ve said picking up the cue. 'And sometimes they beat me — but I don't even punish them,' Col. Ve laughed pleasantly at his joke.

Congressman Hawkins suggested that we go on to Camp 4. We all got into the jeeps and were taken to Camp 5. I was asked to interpret by Thomas Harkin. This time a guard was standing by:

'Where are you from?'

'Ben Tre.'

'When were you arrested?'

'Ten years ago.'

'Why were you arrested?'

'I am a political prisoner.'

'But what was the specific reason?'

'The provincial authorities arrested me.'

'You were arrested because you were a traitor, weren't you?' the guard prompted.

'I was arrested because I am a traitor,' the prisoner parroted.

In another cave a prisoner said he did not know why he was arrested.

'You had a grenade in your hand and you were planning to kill people. Isn't that true?' Col. Ve shouted authoritatively.

'I had a grenade in my hand and was going to kill people,' the prisoner said.

It was the same, situation after situation. Yes, the food was delicious — when the guards were around. No, we have almost no food, they said, when the guards were not around. Yes, we get letters from home — when the guards stood by and listened. No, we cannot receive or send out letters — when the guards were not listening.

AFTER Camp 5, Representative Hawkins made his request once again to see Camp 4. It was there we had been told the infamous tiger cages were. As we entered the compound of Camp 4, it was as it had been described and as we had put together clues from various people. Two walls on one end with Chinese imperial type decorative walls in front of the wells. Some beautiful flowers which one of the Representatives photographed. But what we could not see at first was the small alley which was supposed to be between the wall of one of the prison buildings and the outer wall. Thomas Harkins saw it first — a narrow path between the two walls with some vegetables growing along the side for the trustees. He passed the word on.

'It is good to see that you have an agricultural project here, Colonel,' Representative Hawkins observed. 'What are these plants?'

'Those are called Vietnamese spinach,' Col. Ve replied. 'We encourage the prisoners to plant things after they become trustees.'

'Not really enough to feed many people, though,' the Congressman observed as he worked his way to the far end of the alley. 'By the way, where does this little door lead to?'

We started to shake the door and rap on it. It was a tiny door, hardly large enough for one person to enter.

'Oh, that goes to another camp,' Col. Ve replied. 'We can enter through the other side.'

We looked at each other, remembering the words of one person who knew the location of the tiger cages: 'There is only one way. You must go through the front at the end of the path where vegetables are grown.'

'I'm tired,' Representative Hawkins said. 'Can't you send someone around to open the door? We can wait here.'

The Congressman is tired. Can you send someone around to open the door?' Thomas Harkin repeated the request.

'This door is always locked. You can't get in,' the Colonel said.

Then miraculously someone came to the gate from the other side to see what was the matter. He opened the door and we slipped through. There before us were the tiger cages. We climbed to the top and looked down onto the prisoners huddled in the cages, three or four in each cage.

The tiger cages are small stone compartments. Inside each cage is a wooden bucket for sanitary purposes which is emptied once a day. The cages are not quite five feet across and about nine feet long. There were three prisoners in each one. To see them we climbed up a stairway and looked down on the prisoners through an opening at the top which is crossed with iron bars. There were 60 or 70 cages in the building.

'Donnez-moi d'eau,' one prisoner said in French.

'I am sorry I cannot speak French,' I answered in Vietnamese, not trusting my poor high school French. 'But I can speak Vietnamese. This is a Congressional team from the United States who have come to look into prison conditions in Viet Nam.'

'We are thirsty. We are hungry. We have been beaten,' one said and the chant was picked up.

'I am here because I spoke for peace. That is what all Vietnamese want. We only ask for peace,' said another.

As we walked down the aisle above them, the prisoners pointed to sores on their bodies. One man showed us his hand. Three fingers were missing.

'They cut off my fingers when they arrested me,' he said. Then he turned his head and showed us a big scar on the back of his head.

None of the men could stand up. Until a few days ago, they said they had been shackled to a bar that went across one end of the cage. The bars had just been removed (although the bars were still left in a few cages) but the slots to put them back in were still there.

'We will be shackled again in a few days,' one said as he crawled around the cage using his hands to move himself.

One of the prisoners pointed to the scars on his useless legs and said, 'We were shackled here for months. We are hungry, thirsty and sick. Please give us some water.'

'I am a Buddhist monk and I spoke for peace in 1966. I am here for no reason except wanting peace. I have been beaten. I have been shackled. But I still speak out for peace.'

Above each cell was a bucket of lime.

'What is this for?' we asked Col. Ve.

'The lime is to whitewash the walls,' the Colonel said.

'No! No!' the prisoners shouted. 'It is thrown on us when we ask for food.'

The floors of many cages were covered with lime.

'When it is thrown on us, we cough and spit blood. Many of us have the disease of the lungs (T.B.) and it is so difficult to breathe when the lime is thrown on us.'

'There are other cages. You must see them, too,' we were told. 'There are cages with women. We hear them screaming and they are near. Right over there.'

We climbed down the stairs and went to the adjacent building. Here was another double row of cages identical to the ones in the men's side. Every cage was filled with five women. The women ranged in age from fifteen years old to one old, blind lady who must have been nearly 70.

'Please give us some water. Please give us some food,' they pleaded.

'We have been here seven months and have had a vegetable three times in those seven months.'

'We are beaten and sick and yet we don't have any medicines.'

Many of the women were obviously very sick. Some had T.B.; some had eye diseases; most had skin diseases. Those who were in the worst condition lay on the floor of the tiny cages while others fanned them with odd bits of cloth.

'How old are you?' I asked one beautiful young girl.

'Eighteen.'

'Are you a student?'

'No, I am a laborer. I worked in a factory.'

'Why were you arrested?'

'I was in a peace demonstration.'

'Are you a Communist?'

At this the girl laughed at what seemed to her an irrelevant question.

'No, I am not a Communist. I am not concerned about politics. I am concerned about peace.'

'Will you salute the flag?' the guard who was standing beside me demanded.

'No! No, I will not salute your flag which represents all the things you have done to me,' she answered, defiantly.

'Then you are a communist and should be killed,' the guard retorted in equally bitter tones.

Many of the girls were young students from Saigon's most prestegious schools like Gia Long, Madame Curie, etc.

'We can only wash every two or three days and then we have almost no water,' they said. 'During our menstruation period it is very hard because we cannot wash ourselves properly. That is not sanitary.'

There are about 500 people in the tiger cages. They are hungry, thirsty and show obvious signs of having been beaten many times.

AS we left the tiger cages, we were confronted once again by Frank Walton, head of the US Public Safety Division.

'You have no right to interfere with Vietnamese affairs,' he told us. 'You have come here trying to stir up trouble. You are guests of Col. Ve here. You aren't supposed to go poking your nose into doors that aren't your business.'

'But this is our business,' Congressman Hawkins explained. 'The United States gives considerable aid to these prisons. We want to be sure our aid is used in a humane way. Several American boys are held prisoner in North Viet Nam. I hope they are not being treated the same way as the prisoners I have just seen being treated here.'

'You are judging the whole prison by 500 inmates on how four or five hundred are being treated. This prison is equal to the standards of many of the prisons in our own country.'

'These are very bad people,' Col. Ve told us. 'They will not salute the flag. They will not even salute the American flag.'

We then went back to the headquarters of the prison island where Col. Ve apologized for not having lunch for us (it was now past one o'clock) and because he had still not received word from the Ministry of Interior about the Congressman's request to see six specific prisoners.

'I am sorry I have no luncheon prepared,' he said. 'I thought you were leaving at eleven this morning.'

'That's all right, Colonel,' Representative Hawkins said. 'But I would like to go to that curio shop. I'd like to get me one of those swagger sticks.'

But curio shop was closed.

The conditions we saw at Con Son were very different from the 'fact sheet' which had been passed out on our departure from Saigon that had stated:

'Inmates are kept busy with work projects and vocational tasks such as woodcutting, tile making, woodworking, animal husbandry, chicken and duck production and sewing. Inmates attend classes in literacy training, and all grades of formal education. Rice, papayas, coconuts and vegetables grown on the prison farm and fish caught by the prisoners supplement the diet...' In the opinion of correction advisors with lengthy US penology experience, Con Son is not a 'Devil's Island,' but on the contrary is a correctional institution worthy of higher ratings than some prisons in the United States.'

A better description is the last words we heard as we left the tiger cages:

'Please give us some water.'

DON LUCE

Significant figures

Important Achievements of South Viet Nam Armed Forces and People during 10 Years of Successful Offensives

(FROM 1961 TO JUNE 1970)

- 2,610,000 casualties (on an average of 270,000 each year), including 845,457 officers and men of US and its satellites and 8 American generals.
- 24,700 aircraft shot down or destroyed on the ground.
- 57,970 military vehicles blasted out of commission (28,899 tanks and armoured cars).
- 3,935 warships and combat launches sunk or set afire.

Heir to the August Revolution tradition, the South Viet Nam revolutionary forces are likely to follow up their successes and inflict still heavier setbacks on the enemy.

The South Vietnamese people...

(Continued from page 1)

SINCE then, all through a quarter of century, our SVN people have ceaselessly enhanced the spirit of stubborn fighting of the August Revolution to contribute their part to the victorious resistance of the entire nation against the French colonialists and, now, against the US aggressors, their satellites and native agents. In the past fifteen years the US imperialists have never ceased striving to deprive us of our sacred national rights. They waged a "special war" in the South and a war of destruction against the DRVN with air and naval forces; at present, they are conducting the most atrocious "limited war" in history against the South Vietnamese people, a cruel "special war" in Laos and an aggressive war in the Kingdom of Cambodia. As pointed out by the Joint Communique of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, American imperialism is the most brutal and fiendish enemy of the peoples of Indochina and of mankind.

In face of the vicious schemes and acts of US imperialism, the South Vietnamese people — staunch fighters of the August Revolution, who have solemnly pledged readiness for "every sacrifice for the fatherland to survive" have, once again, taken up the defence of their country with growing success.

In over a year the Nixon administration has been bending its efforts on the realisation of the "Vietnamization of the war." It has been strengthening the Saigon army in number and equipment and, simultaneously, feverishly carrying out the "pacification program" to pen up civilians in "strategic hamlets," occupy territory, rake off human and material resources in South Viet Nam. It has been stepping up bombings and shellings, toxic-chemical sprayings, the use of tanks and B-52s and consolidating the US defence system: it has mounted violent attacks on the liberated zone and the occupied areas, launched repeated operations to prevent the eventual collapse of their regime, accumulating untold crimes against the people. However, concrete and steel and the cruelty of the US imperialists and their henchmen have proved incapable of saving their desperate plight.

ARMED with revolutionary heroism, the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam have overcome countless sacrifices and trials, continued to maintain and develop an overall offensive strategy and, holding firm their initiative of action in all the three strategic areas — the plains, mountains and forests, and towns, inflicted on the enemy heavy losses in manpower and war means. American and puppet regular forces have suffered substantial casualties in their rear bases, defensive lines and even in 'Vietnamization' experimenting points such as Dakto, Buprang, Duc Lap, Long Khanh, the Mekong delta, etc. Desintegration has been plaguing the Saigon army. The anti-war movement has been rising. Collective mutinies, rebellions of puppet troops, and their liquidation of wicked commanders, their seizure of garrison or crossing over to the people's side, have been on the upgrade.

People everywhere, particularly in so-called "priority pacification sectors," have staged simultaneous uprisings, dismantled "strategic hamlets" or population concentration areas, wiped out enemy thugs, dismissed civil-guard groups and wrested back power.

The American imperialists have met with heavy failures in their "Vietnamization" plan, and have been driven deeper into an irremediably defensive posture. That is a result of tremendous significance for the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces in this grim phase of their generalized offensives and uprisings.

This has stimulated the militancy of workers, students, buddhists, war wounded of the Saigon army, and other segments of the urban population against the American aggressors and the Thieu-Ky administration. Since early 1970 more particularly, the sustained, ebullient and resolute drive of the students against conscription and victimization, for the release of their arrested comrades, in protest against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta's collusion with the Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique in massacres of Vietnamese nationals in Cambodia, has added to the innumerable difficulties, perplexity and unprecedented political estrangement of the Saigon administration.

On the other hand, the people in the liberated zone have been on their mettle to build and develop their strength on every field, with a view to an ever more effective contribution to the resistance. The free areas have been consolidating and expanding steadily in spite of the enemy's effort at sawing in over the people and annexing land. Revolutionary power has thus far been established in 44 provinces, 6 cities — Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Dalat, My Tho and Can Tho — and in most districts and villages. The people, exercising their right as masters, are eagerly carrying into effect the Program of Action of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and have been constantly bringing changes for the better to their areas.

In spite of bombs and shells, of the hardships of the fighting and strains of production, the new, wholesome and joyful life of the people confident in the outcome of their battle, lends the liberated zone a lustre which illuminates even the gloomy occupied areas, and fires their fellow-countrymen there in their fight to topple the quisling administration and seize power for themselves.

THANKS to the revolutionary power, free South Viet Nam's international image has been shining more distinction. Shortly after its formation, twenty-five countries recognized the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government and established diplomatic relations with it at embassy level. Ties of various types have been formed with many other countries.

The 10-point overall solution of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government has enlisted ever-wider approval and support from the world peoples, including large segments of the American people and political circles, who regard it as a logic and reasonable basis for a sound political settlement of the South Vietnamese problem. The universal movement for an end to the US aggressive war, withdrawal of all US troops and serious negotiations with the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government etc., has been gaining in breadth and depth. It flared up with particular violence upon US extension of the war to the whole of Indochina and has ever since been assuming unusual dimensions. Such a situation has further isolated the Nixon administration and made bad worse for it.

The tremendous, overall successes of the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces supply an eloquent illustration of the complete soundness of the NFL Political Program and the PRG Program of action. They are achievements of their ardent patriotism and iron will to fight and win, those of the Vietnamese people's tradition of resistance to foreign aggression, which dates back to time immemorial and especially to the August Revolution. They are also accomplishments of North-South militant solidarity, of the world peoples, the American included, whose sympathy with, and staunch backing for, the South Vietnamese have never failed.

THE US imperialists' serious setbacks have not however weakened their obstinacy, and brought them to give up their aggressive scheme in Viet Nam. To the best of its abilities, the Nixon administration has been prolonging its aggressive war in South Viet Nam with its "Vietnamization" policy, intensifying its "special war" in Laos, and carrying on the invasion of the Kingdom of Cambodia in gross violation of the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of these three countries. All this has worsened the tension in Indochina and Southeast Asia.

The obdurate attitude, aggressive deeds and atrocities of the US imperialists and their valets have poured oil on the wrath of the Indochinese, American and world peoples. Upholding the glorious traditions of the August Revolution, under the leadership of the National Front for Liberation, the people of South Viet Nam, shoulder to shoulder with their seventeen million fellow-countrymen in the North, and the fraternal peoples of Cambodia and Laos, pledge to resolutely push up their resistance to US aggression, and baffle the US scheme of escalating and expanding the war all over Indochina.

Enlightened by the last message of President Ho Chi Minh, the entire people and armed forces of South Viet Nam, all to a man, are resolved to brave all hardships and sacrifices and fight harder to frustrate the US "Vietnamization" scheme, overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Khiem traitorous clique, and achieve greater successes in their march toward final victory with a view to a democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam pending national reunification, and, to a worthy contribution to the victory of the Indochinese peoples over their common enemy — US imperialism and its lackeys.

SOUTH VIET NAM

Receiving Emperor Bao Dai's Sword and Seal

JUST back from the Tan Trao Congress and still up to our ears in the business of the first days of the Provisional Government, we got a message from the Trung Bo Administrative Committee reporting that Bao Dai had decided to abdicate and requesting that the Government send representatives to receive his abdication. The news did not come to us as a surprise because in the eclipse of the French and Japanese — masters of the Hue Court — from the political arena of Indochina their servile lackeys had lost all props.

At that time President Ho Chi Minh was still at the resistance base. On the order of the Party Central Committee and the Provisional Government,

comrades Nguyen Luong Bang, Cu Huy Can and myself were dispatched as a deputation to Hue. I represented the Provisional Government and led the party while Nguyen Luong Bang was delegated by the Viet Minh Central Committee.

AT 12km from Hue, we were greeted by Mr Pham Khac Hoe, head of Bao Dai's Cabinet. At the Trung Bo Administrative Committee, after hearing a report from its executive body, we were informed that since the setting up of the revolutionary power Bao Dai had been under surveillance in the Imperial Citadel while the French had landed near Hue. No sooner had the first Frenchman been dropped than he inquired after Bao Dai, Pham Quynh and other former French lackeys. On the one hand, we disarmed him, on the other, we duly disposed of French agents like Ngo Dinh Khoi and Pham Quynh while isolating Bao Dai, pending the Provisional Government's instructions. From Mr Pham Khac Hoe, we learnt that after Japan's surrender and the people's demonstration and seizure of power in Hue, Bao Dai had been in great fear not of his throne but of his own life. In particular, when he saw our police arrest Vinh Can — his cousin, he was afraid for himself. He had no other choice than surrender to the revolution and announce his intention to quit.

After being posted on the general situation and Bao Dai, we decided after discussion to show him leniency and ask for President Ho Chi Minh's and the Government's instructions later on if any change occured. Then we apprised Mr Pham Khac Hoe of the following conditions:

1 — After our interview with Bao Dai in the Kien Trung Palace, we should fix the date and the formalities of the abdication ceremony.

2 — After his abdication, Bao Dai would have to leave the Imperial Palace with his personal belongings, all other property in the Palace would be entrusted to the Trung Bo Administrative Committee.

3 — As works built by the people, the mausoleums of the Nguyen dynasty from now on would became state property. The Nguyen family might go there for cult purposes but not regard them as their private property.

Then we decided to meet Bao Dai the same evening.

UNANTICIPATED a turmoil in the last hours of a disintegrating power, the haggard face of the members of the imperial family and staff, including the Empress Nam Phuong. But the reality was quite another picture. When our car arrived at the Kien Trung Palace, the only men we met were Bao Dai and Pham Khac Hoe. The ex-Emperor wore a blue tunic, silk trousers, and no hat. His plump face was expressionless. In the drawing-room, there were some "yellow-sashed" guards serving tea. At first, I asked Bao Dai what he thought of our terms. He accepted them all. As an awkward silence followed, I tried to keep the ball rolling. "When you were Emperor and our country was ruled by the French then by the Japanese, perhaps you did not feel very happy, did you?"

"No, we did not." he slowly answered.

After another pause, I felt it was pointless to drag on the conversation and abruptly told him the date and the procedure of the abdication.

Before we left, Mr Pham Khac Hoe reminded us that that month — August — his Majesty and himself had not yet drawn their salaries. I promised him to look into that matter which was no problem. On leaving the Kien Trung Palace, I noticed that through its half-open doors many dark-turbaned heads were peeping out at us.

On August 30, 1945, at the appointed time, 50,000 people of Hue had gathered in front of the Ngo Mon gate. The lush willows of the imperial town and sampans bobbines on the jade green River of Perfumes were adorned with yellow-starred red flags. The car of the government delegation glided through the main entrance of the Ngo Mon (Main) gate amidst rousing cheers from the population. I could not help remembering that in the past this main entrance had been opened only to greet the Ambassador of the Chinese Court coming to bestow investiture on the Emperor of Annam. When the French colonialists arrived at Thuan Hoa to occupy Viet Nam, General de Courcy had an argument with Ton That Thuyet over the opening of this entrance to greet him. Today the car of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam impressively entered the main entrance of the Ngo Mon gate of the Hue Imperial Citadel, a simple fact which crowned so many years of our people's struggle against the colonialists and the feudalists under the Party's leadership.

Clad in the imperial yellow turban and robe, Bao Dai was standing at the entrance. The Delegation mounted on the Gate's mirador amidst the people's ovation. Bao Dai read his abdication order. Then with both hands he lifted a long jade-inlaid sword, and, after that, a square gold dynastic seal. On behalf of the Provisional Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, I received these symbols of the feudal regime. In this sacred minute, the gesture would have been a routine one but for a comic detail. The sword and the seal were said to be handed down from Gia Long who had them made after crushing the Tay Son and gained control of the whole country. Together with them there was a brocade bag containing a set of jade chess pawns and other valuable knick-knacks. There is nothing to say about receiving the sword, but when I took the seal I was strained by its weight: 15 pounds of gold. Then I had to lift it up for the vast crowd to see. The higher I lifted it the more the population cheered, many people jumped or tossed up their hats out of joy. However, nobody was aware that I had to summon all my strength for the exertion and that my arms nearly failed me.

At last, on behalf of the Government I read a speech and proclaimed abolition of the millenary monarchical regime and an end to the last reign of the Nguyen dynasty...

TRAN HUY LIEU
(1901-1969)

Townswomen Blame the Americans and Their Stooges

ON July 27, over 500 women of various walks of life and political convictions in the US-puppet temporarily-controlled zone held a conference and decided to set up a "Committee to Defend the Vietnamese Women's Right to Live." The Conference staged a debate on the "Tribulations of the women in the present society."

The presidium included delegates of many women's unions, representatives of woman intelligentsia, religious believers, students, workers, etc. The streamers in the Conference hall read: "US civilization in Viet Nam is prostitution," "Half a million US-satellite troops bring in prostitution," "Vietnamese women are determined to demand peace for their country."

Opening the conference, a representative of the «Committee» voiced the militant spirit of the women against the aggressive war launched by the American imperialists, and pointed out that this war had shattered countless families and driven the South Vietnamese society to misery and depravation with ubiquitous prostitution. She also denounced Thieu's brutal repression against all those who urged peace and a decent life, then stressed that "the threats of the authorities (Thieu - Ky - Khiem clique) are but evidence of their confusion in face of the militancy of the 14 million South Vietnamese."

Subsequently many women delegates took the floor to denounce the war atrocities perpetrated by the American aggressors and to press for an end to the war. A representative of the Saigon "National Assembly" charged that the White House's use of mercenaries had drawn stiff opposition from the people. She also lashed at Thieu's repression of patriots and peace-loving people, and emphasized that Vietnamese women not minding US bayonets and M.15 rifles were resolute to march in the van of all movement for peace and the right to live.

After laying bare the crimes of the US aggressors, a delegate of the employees serving the Americans called the Conference to "seek every way to stop immediately this protracted war... for we women are determined never follow in the wake of the Americans and forget that we are Vietnamese."

The Conference issued an appeal to all women to stand up and struggle together with the entire South Vietnamese people to put an end to US-puppet oppression and exploitation now weighing heavily on them.

ON AUGUST 25, 1945

SEIZURE OF POWER IN SAIGON

THE news of the Japanese capitulation spread like a wild fire throughout the city. The Saigonese who were abreast of the situation understood that a revolutionary change was just around the corner and feverishly worked for the success of that historical upheaval.

The Japanese militarists, aware of their pass, lost of all their truculence. In its death's throes, the pro-Japanese puppet government tried to stage some demonstrations in its favour but failed in its attempt in face of the revolutionary upsurge of the masses.

For the first time in history, the South Vietnamese people were able to chant publicly the slogans so dear to their hearts.

In every part of the city talk was about the Viet Minh, the slogans its displayed and the meetings it convened. Gatherings, T.U. rallies in various enterprises and lectures held at Nguyen Van Hao theatre, drew a large attendance of toiling people and other social sections of Saigon. At the Nguyen Van Hao theatre, the crowd gave a thundering applause to a speaker when he shouted "Down with the puppet government!", "Power to the people!". Those who were standing outside, thronging the Gallieni boulevard, approvingly echoed the slogans at the top of their voices.

On the night of August 8, 1945, the golden-starred red flag was hoisted in front of Nguyen Van Hao theatre with a streamer calling on the people to "take part in the August 25 demonstration." The sight of red flags flown in many parts of the city filled the people with great excitement.

An invisible string bound to one another all the inhabitants in the whole village, whole street, whole town district; an unusual bustle prevailed in the suburbs, in downtown Saigon, the railway station, the Ong Lanh bridge. Almost everybody had a sleepless night. They printed leaflets, prepared flags, streamers, tam vong (bamboo) sticks, hand-grenades, flintlocks; others sat up reading leaflets or perusing revolutionary newspapers or looking at 'match boxes" (1) and tramcars carrying passengers free of charges from Hoc Mon and Lai Thieu to Saigon to the site of the demonstrations. Crowds were marching along the main thoroughfares to the tune of "On the Road," "March of the Youth", "Put Aside Our Pens"...

ON August 25, at 4 o'clock in the morning, the pro-Japanese puppet administration was toppled. At 6 a.m. all the administrative offices were in the hands of the people. Saigon put on a different face. Golden-starred red flags fluttered on top of the Thu Ngu flag pole and in front of public buildings. Revolutionary army units and shock youth teams mounted guard at all crossroads. The Frenchmen, the Japanese and their valets hang their heads. They no longer stamped their hobnailed shoes or walked swaggeringly on the roadways but slouched gingerly along the pavement, aware that from now on this land belonged to its real masters, the Vietnamese people.

In fact the new masters of Saigon were living the happiest days in their life. Slaves yesterday, they now swarmed into "their" streets, walking heads high amidst their fellow-countrymen and the cadres who worked for them. They addressed each other by the word "Comrade" as if they were old acquaintances.

When the demonstration began, the main thoroughfares were turned into a sea of people. The march past included such delegations as Bason, Faci, Smoke, the trade-unions of mechanics, hairdressers, civil servants, soup-dealers, shoemakers, youth union, women's union, oldagers, schoolchildren, armymen, policemen, firemen, peasants... One could see people in uniforms, or in European clothes jostling with those in the traditional costumes.

Most moving were the scenes of delegations of revolutionary militiamen wearing pomards, flintlocks or machineguns walking and whistling. They were people who are still now defending the "Brass wall of the Fatherland."

People then thronged Norodom square full of red flags, posters and streamers. They shouted at the top of their voices such slogans as "Down with Japanese fascism!", "Down with puppet Nguyen Van Sam!", "Power to the Viet Minh!" Then Saigon youth sung such popular tunes as "Off on the Road."

All shops were closed. Red flags were flown in front of all houses whose all occupants were at the demonstration.

The "match boxes" shuttled between Saigon-Cholon and Pha Tho, Ban Co, Phu Nhuan, Go Vap. Their drivers merrily invited people to hop in till no room was left and carried them to destination without charging a cent. The Saigon-Cholon tramcars were filled to capacity. They had no more time-tables and halted at any place by request. Passengers even climbed on the roof, shouting and waving flags.

The big demonstration wound up late in the afternoon with every people full of confidence in the future and the August Revolution.

After that momentous days, the Saigonese buckled immediately down to the task of setting up a new power and organizing a new life. Then rallies and meetings were held in a more enthusiastic mood than ever. The T.U. headquarters opened their door publicly for the workers to meet one another.

THE Saigonese lived the first days of independence and freedom. Today as this independence and freedom have been robbed by the American colonialists, they think all the more eagerly of these hectic days and pledge themselves to fight to the last drop of their blood to wipe out the enemy and recover the rights secured by the great August Revolution.

(1) Horse-drawn carts used a popular transport.

Saigon on the day of seizure of power during the August 1945 Revolution

The Sleeping Guerilla Girl

How angel-like, in her innocent sleep,
My young sister does look with her fair face.

Sweet like the Perfume River's flood,
But impetuous like the rising tide when in the field.

Who knows that only yesterevening,
in a city's narrow lane,

She proved a fearless soldier
Leading her group under a hail of steel,
Through the encirclement of numerous battalions.

Now deep in her seraphic sleep.
The wind scenting her hair, the sun rouging her cheeks,

Oh you, birdie in the field,
Sing her into more beauteous dreams.

She is sleeping in the green garden
splintered by the noon sun,

In the soft rustling breeze sweeping the coconut palms,
Her parachute cover is fluttering in the luminous light,
A giant butterfly flapping its wings to the swinging hammock's rhythm.

Showers of shells from the enemy ships off shore.
Blasts tearing the Sphere's silence,
Airplanes roaring like wild beasts
Only trouble her nap for a fleeting moment.

Tonight when the moon is waning,
The fairy-like fighter will hie back to the firing line,
The noon breeze is gently swaying her hammock,
On her lips is playing the shadow of a smile.
What is this beautiful dream
Which brings spring to her lips?

DUONG HUONG LY

SOUTH VIET NAM'S LAND, PEOPLE AND HISTORY

TAM VONG bamboo spears

Armed with "Tam Vong" sticks, the revolutionary masses paraded in Saigon

VIET Nam is a major habitat of bamboo. From the Ben Hai river in the North to Ca Mau cape in the South, everywhere bamboo is grown: along the limpid canals, in the hills of Trung Bo and in the plains of Nam Bo.

There are in Viet Nam bamboos of various forms and sizes: the big, long, hollow, rickety ones grow in the jungle or mountain slopes, the thorny, thick and straight ones (tam vong) thrive in the plains.

In shape, foliage and colour, tam vong does not differ so much from other bamboos, except that its stem is from 5 to 10 metres high and its diameter from foot to top is nearly the same. Young, the tree is a luscious green, old, it is yellowish. The stem is divided in thick knots, and sometimes it is full inside.

Tam Vong is planted and used almost everywhere in South Viet Nam, especially in the Nam Bo countryside. When it is old, it is cut into sticks of 2.5 or 3 metres long, rid of the bloom on its skin and dried on fire. On moonlit nights, in spring festivals or after harvest, the stick would the used in "pushing" game (one player holding one end of the stick and pushing his opponent at the other end - *Ed.*) or carved into sword blades for traditional games and theatre.

Under French rule, there was no blast furnace. The ores extracted in Viet Nam would be shipped to France where they were turned into weapons and sent back to our country for use against the people. To fight the harsh colonial regime, tam vong was one of the weapons used since the very outset of French domination till the first decades of the 20th century. In the middle of this century when the national liberation movement reached a high and Viet Nam was shaken by momentous upheavals topped — by the August 1945 Revolution which cast off the French colonial yoke — tam vong was the main weapon of millions of shock youth in Saigon, Hue and the rest of South Viet Nam. In the hands of patriotic-minded people who harboured a deep hatred for the enemy, the sharp tam vong stick was able to overthrow French colonialism and dethrone the tottering monarchs. With the birth of the democratic republic which placed Viet Nam on an equal footing with other countries in the world, tam vong has gone down in history as a war means associated with dramatic feats.

HARDLY had Saigon known independence thirty days when the French imperialists staged a comeback. Immediately tam vong became the arm of tens of thousands of armymen to defend South Viet Nam and of guerillas and militiamen to protect their villages and homes. It was the main weapon of the first days of the people's war; in the long resistance war, it was turned into millions of spikes, and millions of arrows and other weapons wielded by the Western High Plateaux guerillas; it became material for shelters for the revolutionary forces operating behind the enemy's lines, for watch-towers for the guerillas and observation posts for regular troops.

In their aggression in South Viet Nam, the US imperialists put in power the sanguinary feudal tyrant Ngo Dinh Diem who as president of the Saigon regime, dipped the South Vietnamese people in a "sea of blood," with the assistance of his US bosses.

When the South Vietnamese people rose up in Ben Tre province, the tam vong stick continued the glorious traditions handed down by the August 1945 Revolution and the Resistance to French aggression. It became a weapon against the US imperialists and was turned into millions of spikes and arrows to fight them in every part of the country.

In the long struggle against foreign aggression, the tam vong stick has been used by 14 million people in the South since the August Revolution; it has become the magic wand in the hands of the shock youth at the front, the fellow-traveller of millions of patriotic workers carrying supplies to the front, and the material used to build flexible bridges for the liberation armymen to cross rivers, ditches and ravines.

TAM DUONG

The mines and guns of Cu Chi people

Each bullet makes enemy casualty

IN Cu Chi district (Gia Dinh province just north of Saigon - *Ed.*) even grass has been scared in many places. Still, the people hold on to their land, living within enemy bombing and shelling range. They are proud of their guerilla teams which are carrying forward the traditional fighting spirit of the late hero Pham Van Coi.

What scares the GIs of the 25th Division and puppet soldiers most at the mere name of Cu Chi is its immense paddy fields larded with mines made and supplied by "communal arsenals" set up in very hamlet. Cu Chi today has many "arsenals" patterned on hero To Van Duc's in the past. But they are much simpler. With just a bill-hook and a file, any villager can make a mine to trap enemy cars. Old men and young boys also have their "own" mines, their own "mine fields." If you collect duds and take them to the "arsenal," you'll get a stock of mines of all kinds.

In village T., whenever the enemy comes, people bustle about, carrying their mines. While the enemy reaches one end of the village, the people, on the other end, hurry to plant their mines. Some stand guard by the roadsides, some climb up on trees to spot the route of enemy vehicles and lay mines and attack them both in front and rear.

The GIs dare not enter the village recklessly. They advance only when the puppet soldiers and tanks have "paved the way" for them.

Fighting with mines is so effective and so safe that even young teen-agers go in for it.

Duc, a boy of 13 for one, has won the title of "Valiant Destroyer of Armour." Once, having picked up a dud he took it to the arsenal. Then the enemy raided his village. Watching the flight of the "Old Lady" (popular nickname for L. 19's and other types of slow, thrumming recon planes-*Ed.*), he anticipated the enemy's action and asked his sister to help him lay a big mine. One tank was destroyed and ten GIs killed.

In village P. everybody knows Khue, a guerilla, for his intrepidity. He collects duds, makes mines by himself and hunts for enemy armour. He has developed a deadly "close fighting" method. Once, the enemy built a culvert for the circulation of his vehicles, damming the water which subsequently flooded the paddy fields.Khue made a raft out of banana-trees for his mines, managed to bypass many enemy check-points controlling the road and set a mine which blasted a military vehicle and the culvert itself. Another time, he planted a mine just 50 metres ahead of an armoured car and destroyed it.

He has "conquered" a road portion about one kilometre long, turned it into a mine field through which the enemy either dared not move or had to drive at top speed when he had to. The 25-year-old guerilla fighter has been twenty times cited "Valiant Destroyer of Armour."

The glorious fighting tradition of Cu Chi no man's land's guerillas has been constantly continued and promoted by their followers. Guerilla teams day and night hold on to the US positions and the main roads and now and then will slip into Trung Hoa, Cu Chi and other places where they make a "Dai Nao" (Big stir.)

Once led by Huan, four guerilla fighters of village T. hung on all night to the rear of a US Special Forces platoon intruding into the liberated zone. They had at their disposal only hand grenades and satchel-charges. When the GIs gathered on a mound, the guerillas attacked them by surprise. The enemy fled helter-skelter, leaving many dead, 13 fire-arms and 2 radio-transmitters.

Each scout, a PLAF magic eye.

In village M., three guerillas armed with two rifles, stood firm on a landing ground and set ablaze seven helicopters. Those in the areas bordering on Highways 1 and 7, closely watched the movement of each vehicle and each group of enemy.

Once, in cooperation with an Armed Security group six guerillas hurled back a puppet battalion raiding along Highway 1. One of them grappled with a puppet soldier, broke his neck, seized his rifle and cut down the others. One day, on Highway 7, guerillas set off mines, reducing three enemy vehicles into scrapheaps on a road - portion over one kilometre long.

The "Big Stirs" in Trung Hao had resounding effects. The guerilla forces of the surrounding villages now and then gathered together to launch night attacks on the Trung Hoa Training Centre.

Remarkably, in the "Big Stirs" participated two mortars whose deadly shells crashed just 50 to 70 metres ahead of the guerillas opening the way to them.

Some young teen-age boys twice "stirred" Cu Chi district town, wiping out many wicked security agents. Seventeen of the latter had died from grenades flung by the boys into a dining-hall.

Once, cruel thugs ran into a tin-roofed house and kicked the doors fast but they couldn't escape, for the boys closed in and tossed in satchel-charges which blew up the building.

Standing close to the northern gates of Saigon, Cu Chi, in the current widespread offensive, is resolved to live up to its renown as "steel land" of South Viet Nam.

Fourteen times cited valiant fighter

COMPANY deputy leader Huynh Tung 25, has fought 25 battles, killed or captured 177 enemy troops, set ablaze 4 armoured cars, seized 12 weapons, and has fourteen times won the title "Outstanding Valiant Fighter of Yanks, Puppet Troops and Military Vehicles" in addition to a Liberation Military Exploit Order, Second Class, awarded by the PLAF command.

Born of a landless peasant family in Thua Thien province he had grown up in hunger and sufferings. He had been from a boy a servant in rich landlords' houses. His family had cruelly suffered from a raid by the Americans against his village, during which his beloved father had been killed. Sad and angry, he took leave of his relatives and joined the PLAF in 1966.

From the day when he enlisted till the moment when he became a campany officer in the Hue area, he had always been a valiant and quick-witted fighter, fully trusted and highly esteemed by his men.

Of the 25 battles he fought, Truong Luu has been for him the most memorable because of the overwhelming odds. The enemy fielded two battalions supported by dozens of armoured cars while Tung had just one company. However he and all his men were determined to fight and to win.

Before dawn, the enemy had finished laying a belt encircling his unit. They advanced in massive waves and were only about 100 metres from his combat position. Like arrows, Tung, Hy, Chien and Bang darted toward the enemy, firing briskly. Caught unawares by this bold charge, the enemy troops stampeded and their formation was soon broken.

With a single burst, Tung felled five enemy troops. But the others concentrated their fire on him. Quick and cunning, he played "hide-and-seek" for ten minutes with the tanks, then jumped on one of them and dropped a satchel-charge into the driver's cabin. The tank was immediately set afire and confusion in adverse ranks grew.

Tung managed to evacuate a wounded fighter by carrying him on his back then returned with some more men, a mortar and dozens of shells. Never before had he been so successful with a mortar! All the 35 shells he fired landed right in the middle of the enemy formation, killing 30 of them and wounding many others.Tung's exploit was an important contribution to the famous Truong Luu victory.

Once, he commanded a platoon against a US battalion supported by armoured cars, aircraft and artillery. The battle which lasted five hours, resulted in 50 GI's killed, one armoured car ablaze and the enemy CP building bashed in.

During the widespread attacks in early 1968, he alone disarrayed one puppet platoon and captured 45 die-hard cruel agents at Con Hen, an islet on the Perfume River.

An unmistakable attitude

AS Mr H. Chu stepped down amidst his pupils' stormy applause, an old clerck pushed the door open, walked in and handed him a small slip of paper.

"Adviser Poster and the headmaster are waiting for you at the school's office," the clerk said: "Would you kindly go to see them at once."

Then the man turned round and left, murmuring, "You are in for it, my dear sir."

THREE days earlier, after three tom tom beats had announced a break, Mr H. Chu left the Baccalaureat senior class. All the students remained on their seats since the principal himself had just told them that "Mr Educational Adviser" was coming to visit them.

The senior were to welcome "Mr Adviser," the rest of the school having to listen to him over loudspeakers. Before stepping out the director said, "You have fifteen minutes to get ready." Boys and girls then hurried out. A secret watchword was immediately circulated: "*Strictly carry into effect the resolution of the Pupils' Union: the school is a battle-ground for patriotic pupils and students.*"

The preparations were finished almost in a jiffy. Upon a whistle signal the gate of the school rolled open. A shining black limousine glided into a halt on the left side. Two well-dressed gentlemen, one tall — an American — the other short — a Vietnamese — alighted and made for the senior classroom. The principal, in national costume, welcomed them on the veranda. In good English he ceremoniously asked the visitors to sit down in large armchairs near the blackboard, in front of the students. Then, clearing his throat, he lifted his voice before a microphone:

"Young friends, it's a great honour for us to welcome to our school a historian, an educational specialist of the United States of America, Professor Poster. I wish to introduce him... "

Some hand claps from the other end of the room burst out, followed by whistle blowing and desk banging. On the platform the headmaster, assuming a serious countenance, shouted into the tape-recorder mike: "Let us all give a cheer to Professor Poster." The tape-recorder did not work. Some one, in the left corner, exclaimed: "Power failure!" The official from the Ministry of Education, who was sitting by Professor Poster, told a pupil to switch on the ceiling fans to check. In the twinkle of an eye half a dozen fans started revolving and revolving widly.

The principal tapped on the mike with his fore finger while "Mr Adviser" went on puffing at his cigarette. His eyes, through his gold-rimmed spectacles, were riveted on the girl students at the farther end.

All of a sudden a couple of black birds irrupted into the room through a window, with strips of paper hanging from their wings. As they flapped their wings, the strips fell down all over. The ministry's official picked up two of these which had landed on his neck. They read:

Down with the American aggressors!

US and satellite troops pull out of Viet Nam!

At the same time, heaps of similar slogans from the electric fans were rained down, littering the floor. Leaving the microphone, the principal dashed to the wall switches and turned the fans off, sweating profusely.

Outside, the tom tom announced the end of the classes. The learners of the senior class rushed out and, like several hundred other boys and girls, rode home on their bikes. Left alone in the class-room, adviser Poster, the principal and the official from the Ministry of Education looked obviously disappointed. They hastily gathered up all the leaflets and put them into their briefcases.

THREE days later, Mr H. Chu was seen in a fairly large, yellowish - painted room opposite the headmaster and adviser Poster. No sooner had he taken a seat than the principal went straight to the point.

"Mr. Chu, 'Mr Adviser' feels displeased with what occurred three days ago in the senior class. You're supposed to know more about it than anyone else. What should be our course of action, in your opinion?"

"Mr principal, professor Poster, I'm aware of the incident. After my lesson, some of my colleagues and pupils recounted to me what had happened. But, I don't think I've any opinion about what course of action you should take for the simple reason that, as a teacher of history, I'm only responsible for my subject. I suppose you agree with me."

Thereupon Mr H. Chu chuckled. Most calmly, the principal said: "Mr Chu, I understand you, but... "

"This school is a middle-school," Prof. Poster, angrily broke in, "all teachers should be collectively responsible. I came to your class right after lesson and your pupils staged a demonstration with anti-American leaflets thrown to my face. How could you say you don't have any opinion?

While speaking, "Mr Adviser" took a lot of leaflets out of his portfolio and flung them on the table.

Mr H. Chu glanced at his wrist watch and sprang to his feet:

"My attitude in teaching my pupils in our national history is unmistakable. As for my attitude to my pupils' distributing leaflets demanding the repatriation of American troops is also as clear-cut as yours."

Turning to the headmaster, Mr H. Chu went on:

"What did the whole Vietnamese people do, and what are they doing? What have all Vietnamese pupils and students in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang and here in Can Tho been doing? In the streets, in schools and universities, even in the Con Dao and Chi Hoa prisons the attitude of our fellow-countrymen and students are equally unequivocal. What then should be our attitude, Mr Principal?"

M P

Autumn crop cultivation completed in our liberated zone

Emulating with the liberation armed forces in scoring achievements to honour the historic August Revolution, the peasants in South Trung Bo and West Tri Thien have shown strong singleness of purpose in production and the fighting to defend and consolidate the liberated areas.

At present, in many places of South Trung Bo early Autumn rice is being diligently brought in and planting of Autumn rice proper completed.

In Lam Dong province subject to daily US-puppet inroads, the peasants have fulfilled their plan as regards manioc, rice and maize. In An Dung district, a Ninh Thuan mountainous area, the population have filled up bomb and shell craters, tilled the fields and sown them on schedule, and are in the lead in the province for tending maize.

The farmers in the Ninh Thuan plains hard hit by the enemy have finished planting out rice seedlings. Braving US-puppet repression the peasants herded in Ham Thuan, Thuan Phong and other "strategic hamlets" north of Ninh Thuan have made for the liberated areas en masse to do farm work.

Apart from putting over 1,000 hectares under Autumn rice, the people have contributed hundreds of thousands of work-days building irrigation work, dredging canals to bring in water. To date the above-mentioned districts have finished the planting out of 15 days ahead of schedule, increased the acreage by over 30 per cent as against last year. Besides the usual fields, the population have cultivated hundreds of hectares of fields previously laid waste. They have also repaired dams and restored the canals damaged by the enemy to get sufficient water for the thousands of hectares under autumn crop.

Parallel with the growing of rice, maize, sweet potato, manioc, the people actively restore pig and poultry-rearing farms, in a drive to produce more food.

In an attempt to prevent and destroy autumn crop production, hinder the peasants' tilling, the US-puppets have sent spies to threaten the population. In spite of all this thousands of families have gone to the liberated areas, bringing with them material to build shelters. The adverse moves cannot but incense the hatred of the people in the areas temporarily under his control and enhance the solidarity between the populations in the two areas.

Alongside the guidance afforded the peasants to carry out cultivation on time and above plan, the revolutionary power in the liberated areas of West Tri Thien has been seeing their spiritual life and health by raising their cultural standard and extending the medical network.

At present, the nationalities in West Tri Thien like those in South Trung Bo are pushing ahead the movement to protect the crops and strengthen their determination to foil the US-puppet encroachments and sabotage of the liberated areas, and to greet the historic August Revolution and the National Independence Day with outstanding achievements.

Laos :

Nearly 3,000 US-Fostered Troops Wiped Out in Two Months

IN June and July, the first two months of the current rainy season, the Lao patriotic armed forces and people put out of action 3,000 US-fostered troops, seized some 1,000 guns of various kinds and destroyed a large quantity of war material, according to still incomplete figures released by KPL.

In *Northern Laos*, in spite of fierce bombings, the Xieng Khouang province armed forces and people continued encircling and attacking the enemy in their hide-outs at Sam Thong-Long Cheng.

In the first days of July, the patriots struck at dozens of enemy positions, shelled the enemy positions on Hill 1900, eight km northeast of Sam Thong. On July 6, they assaulted a mixed Lao-Thai battalion on Hill 1348, northwest of Sam Thong, knocking out over 100 men, including 23 Thai mercenaries.

Meanwhile, the local guerillas ambushed an enemy detachment 12 km northeast of Sam Thong, wiped out many bandits at Co Hay, launched another action 18 km northwest of Salaphukum and intercepted an enemy raid at Sen Cho.

The Sam Neua, Luong Nam Tha, and Phongsaly provinces' patriotic forces repeatedly attacked and knocked out many bandits.

On July 15 and 16, the Lao patriots launched surprise attacks on the enemy position in Salataso, 12 km southwest of Nam Tha and the Phalacannam cluster of strongholds 19 km to the southwest.

The Sam Neua armed forces and people assailed on July 7 a "special training camp" of bandits in Phasiphu area, exacting a toll of nearly 100 enemy troops and destroyed many barracks and bunkers.

In *Southern Laos*: In co-ordination with the Lao puppet troops, Saigon troops on many occasions crossed the border in forays into Lao liberated zone and inflicted casualties on civilians. But they met with fierce counter blows from Khammoune and Savanakhet provinces' armed forces and people. The local patriots put out of action hundreds of Saigon troops and seized a large quantity of weapons and war material.

The patriotic forces intercepted the enemy on an incursion into Tang Vai, stormed an adverse position on Hill 175 beside Highway 23, wiping out over 50 troops. Also in this area, the patriots disbanded 2 enemy battalions, captured many weapons and a quantity of war equipment.

The chase to the bandits was stepped up in Attopeu and Saravane provinces and Boloven area.

On the night of July 12 the patriotic forces hit at the enemy at Phulangtau, 24km northwest of Attopeu town, killing many of them and seizing a large quantity of war material. They also assaulted the local airfield, causing many losses to the enemy.

The Siphandon province armed forces and people on July 13 wiped out completely an enemy company of the 49th Mobile Battalion stationed in Sa Phang area and stormed an adverse post at Mulaphamok, putting out of action nearly 100 troops and seized complete control of the area.

They also were active in the Hatsaykhun area and won control of its vicinities.

Cambodia :

Patriotic Forces' Gains in July

BETWEEN July 4 and 27 the NLAF attacked the Saigon 333rd tactical group. Seriously battered the latter was compelled to leave Cambodia.

The NLAF also struck at the Saigon puppet troops at Neak Luong, Kompong Trabek, Takeo and Svay Rieng, wiping out hundreds of them. On July 19, in particular, they intercepted a Rangers battalion raiding Svay Thum village, inflicting 250 casualties and captured a big haul of weapons.

While the Saigon troops were continually and everywhere beaten, the Lon Nol troops were encircled and assaulted in the Northern and Northwestern, Southern and Southwestern provinces.

Between July 10 and 27, the NLAF significantly wrote off and decimated 9 Lon Nol battalions, and seized about 100 tons of weapons in the Kiriom sector.

Guerillas and regional forces were also very active in July. In Takeo province alone, between July 14 and 17, they took a toll of over 400 enemy men, whittled down 2 battalions at Ba Rokar and Lovia.

The Information Bureau of the NUFK has also made public the balance-sheet of the previous months :

Up to June 30, the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces put out of action 12,000 GIs, 18,000 Saigon soldiers and 50,000 Lon Nol troops, a total of 80,000 and 2,400 vehicles, downed 400 aircraft, destroyed or damaged about one hundred guns and collected about one hundred vehicles, 10,000 weapons and thousands of tons of munitions, food supplies and other war material. One half of Cambodia including five provinces in Northern and Northeastern Cambodia with 2,500,000 people, were completely liberated.

The Information Bureau of the National United Front of Kampuchea recently issued a communique summing up the victories of the Cambodian army and people in July over the US aggressors, the Saigon puppet troops and the Lon Nol puppet troops in Cambodia.

From June 25 to July 7 the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces attacked the Saigon multi-battalion unit 318 in Piem Cheng and Chup areas, Kompong Cham province, wiping out or capturing nearly 2,000 enemy, destroying more than 130 military vehicles and capturing a large amount of arms and ammunition. The Saigon multi-battalion unit 333 stationed in Krek area was also heavily battered by the Cambodian patriots. More than 1,800 enemy were put out of action, nearly 300 military vehicles and more than 20 artillery pieces and mortars were destroyed and 4 aircraft were shot down.

Lon Nol troops evacuating their dead

In the cities :

« We cling to the Americans like calves to cows », says Ky

THE Saigon Doc Lap *(Independence) wrote on July 23 that on July 21 Ky admitted in a speech at the HQ of the puppet First Army Corps that : "Over the last five years we have clung to the Americans like calves do to cows, and now we must have the courage to ask them to go home because their presence creates an absurd political oppression and infringes on our sovereignty."*

"The US policy of aid", Ky went on, "also robs us of our independence and sovereignty. We have to depend on the mood of the Americans. If the United States suspends its aid we'll simply starve." "Out of 100 dollars of aid," Ky disclosed, "90 go into the pockets of speculators who prey upon the Vietnamese people."

So far Thieu and Ky have been boasting that they are "independent" from the Americans, whereas the latter try to give the former a pretence of "constitutionality" and "legality." Though only part of the picture, Ky's admission suffices to expose the bluff of masters and lackeys.

But one wonders whether Ky really meant to ask the Americans to go home or his outburst was just directed against Thieu and aimed at currying the favour of his masters?

Everybody still remembers his answer to newsmen about Thieu's intention to make of Ky just a "figurehead" Vice-President : "Three years ago, Mr Thieu assumed full powers and I did nothing. Now in this military and political mess how can I stand idly by ?"

World Conference Against A-H Bombs Support Indochinese Peoples Against US Aggression

THE preliminary meeting of the recent 16th World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in Tokyo opened with the adoption of a resolution protesting against the Japanese government for having refused entry permits to delegates of North and South Viet Nam. The meeting also agreed to elect the North and South Vietnamese delegates honorary Chairmen of the Conference.

Dealing with the question of Viet Nam and Indochina, the general report of the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo) highly praised the result of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples which marked the formation of a united front of the peoples in the Indochinese countries against US imperialist aggression.

It asserted that the first question is about the great urgency with which the peace and democratic forces of the world have to solve the task of developing international united action and forming a united front in opposition to the US imperialist war of aggression in Indochina and in support of the struggle of the peoples of Indochina.

The Conference issued a resolution expressing the solidarity with the peoples of Indochina and the other countries all over the world which are fighting against US aggression.

On the occasion of Afro-Americans' struggle solidarity day (August 18)

VICTORY BELONGS TO THE AFRO - AMERICANS IN THE US

THE summer of 1970 is "not less hot" than the previous summers.

This is the conclusion of an investigation made by *Newsweek* in the ghettos of 50 American cities early in last July. Since then the actions of Afro-Americans for equal rights, and against poverty racialism, unemployment, inflation, repression, terrorism and the US aggressive war in Indochina corroborate this assessment.

Opening this "hot summer" was the uprising of black people from July 5 to 7, in Osbery Park city, New Jersey. The following days, the movement spread rapidly and sweepingly to such states as Kansas, Indiana, Michigan, Oklahoma, Pensylvania, Ohio,

Anti-war demonstration of Black and White Americans in Los Angeles.

Massachusetts, Connecticut, Illinois. On August 5, when policemen shot dead Christine Rick, a black woman, who was trying to defend a black boy roughly manhandled, the state of emergency and curfew could not check the turmoil.

This state of things came as no surprise to all those who are conversant with the history of Afro-Americans in the States, a history of over three centuries of struggle against racial segregation, repression and exploitation. Up to now, the American rulers have been pursuing a colonial policy toward the black people and have turned them into slaves of a colony right inside the US. The Afro-Americans are economically milked dry and politically ill-treated. They live in want of everything: food, housing, education and job. Seventy-five of them rough it in the slums. Only 11 per cent of the total population, they however make up 70 per cent of jobless people in the US. In many localities in the US 40 per cent of the unemployed are black people. Generally speaking, they may be arrested, manhandled or killed arbitrarily by the white racists with the encouragement of the authorities. Their lives are full of blood and tears. Obviously, the action of Afro-Americans for vital rights, freedom and democracy is an indispensable, legitimate and sensible one.

They have realized more and more clearly that not only has their struggle an anti-racial character, but it is a long and difficult revolutionary effort which can "emancipate them and wrest back freedom for them through bloody and stubborn fighting and not by begging." In recent years, this struggle has been rising unremittingly, better organized and co-ordinated. Apart from political action carried out by the broad masses, the black people have flown to arms to defend themselves against the cruel authorities and racists. "Hot Summers," the climax of this persevering drive, occur every year. Shaking the US and the world were the one-week uprising in Watts in August 1965, the insurrections in 80 cities in July 1967, and 125 cities in April 1968 and the 4-month strike in San Francisco university early in 1969 followed by a sympathetic strike of black and white students of 34 other universities.

This "time bomb in the bosom of the US" has been a source of great apprehension for the American authorities. To quell it they have resorted to such means as deception, division, terror and repression. But their frenzied reaction has only fanned up the anger of the black people. With such war cries as "Power for Black people," "Liberate the Afro-Americans" heartily approved and supported by black as well as white progressives, the movement of the Afro-Americans in the US is more and more closely associated with national liberation revolutions in the world, especially the protest against the US imperialists' war of aggression in Viet Nam. This gruelling expedition has been weighing heavily on the poor in the US, made up mostly of black people. Black GIs in South Viet Nam account for 25 per cent (40 to 50 per cent in some units) of the total US build-up there, but their conditions are not better than those of their forefathers in the last two world wars. They have to carry out the most dangerous missions. Twenty-two per cent of US war dead are black people. On the Viet Nam battleground they are not immune from racial discrimination. Even after death, their corpses are either left on the battlefield or, if repatriated, buried in cemeteries especially reserved for them. That is why, on "M" days of October and November 1969, when they fought stubbornly against draft and taxes, especially on the days of upheavals in universities following Nixon extending the war to the whole of Indochina, the movement of Afro-Americans was more closely linked to that waged by the American people against the Indochina war and the strikes staged by American workers, setting up in fact an anti-US-imperialist front in the heart of the US.

Black GIs fighting in South Viet Nam have grown aware that the authors of the Viet Nam war are also those who are repressing their coloured brethren in the States. According to Wallace Terry II, a *Time* correspondent, 63.8 per cent of black GIs in South Viet Nam have not seen the reason why they are fighting in South-East Asia; on the contrary they hold that "our actual struggle is against racism in the US." As a result, the "hostilities" between black and white GIs in South Viet Nam are gaining alarming proportions. Many clashes or killings have taken place in some army units between black and white GIs on racist grounds. The *New York Times* even feared that, acquainted with Viet Nam's guerilla warfare, the black GIs, upon return to the States, would swell the ranks of Afro-Americans fighting for the recovery of their lost rights.

FIGHTING a common enemy—US imperialism—the South Vietnamese people highly value the movement of the black people in the US. Together with the anti-war movement, this agitation of Afro-American people for vital rights and democracy has split up the US ruling class and demoralized the GIs in South Viet Nam, and will certainly aggravate the Nixon clique's pass in the quagmire of defeat. We warmly welcome and wholeheartedly support the legitimate struggle of the fraternal Afro-Americans in the US and are convinced that with their long fighting experience and the staunch support of the world's people, they will win final victory.

In brief

— THE July 29, 1970 Paris daily *Le Monde* carried an article by Jacques Decornoy which read: "At present, the US bomb tonnage dropped on the Indochina battlefield every month is equivalent to 11 atomic bombs of 20,000 tons of TNT each."

— On August 6, 1970, a group of Americans living in the Philippines demonstrated in front of the US Embassy in Manila to protest against the American aggressive war in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

— On August 2, 1970, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palmer published an article in the *Dagens Nÿcheter* sternly condemning the US war of aggression in Viet Nam and the Son My massacre. "Peace cannot be restored in Viet Nam so long as the American troops do not withdraw once for all from this country," he said.

— Under the slogan "Viet Nam in the hearts of the youth" the Bosnia and Herzegovin (Yugoslavia) school children organized a competition of novels, poems and drawings on the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people against US aggression.

— On August 4, 1970, Soviet and West German Youths at a friendship camp in Estonia held a "Viet Nam Day," 350 youths worked for two hours to earn money for a "Support Viet Nam fund."

— Recently many Indians staged demonstrations and meetings in front of the US Information Service in New Delhi to protest against US aggression in Indochina.

— Of late the Lao Patriotic Buddhist Federation has sent a letter to the South Viet Nam Buddhist Federation voicing its support to the South Viet Nam bonzes' drive against the Americans and the Saigon puppet administration.

— More than 100 workers and students from Britain, Iceland and a number of American, Asian and African countries held a meeting in London in support of the three Indochinese peoples' struggle against US aggression.

— On August 6, 1970, in the US House of Representatives, Congressman D. Bingom made public a special letter from 100 US Congressmen to D. Bruce, head of the American delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, laying bare Nixon's obdurate stance in the settlement of the Viet Nam problem and calling for Bruce's resignation.

THE KOREAN PEOPLE WILL WIN

ON August 15, 1945—a landmark in the history of Korea—the well-known Korean army units, in co-operation with the Red Army, defeated the Japanese fascists, overthrew their domination and wrested back national independence and freedom.

The glorious achievement was the outcome of a long, uphill and heroic struggle waged by the Korean people from 1910 to 1945 against the Japanese imperialists, the upsurge of which was in the thirties when General Kim Il Sung led his people up in arms on the borderland of North Korea and the North-East of China.

No sooner had the People's Democratic Republic of Korea been born than in June 1950 the US imperialists launched a powerful attack against her in an attempt to occupy her northern part, place the whole of her territory under their yoke, and turn her into a military base against the socialist camp. With the help of the Chinese volunteers and the socialist countries, the Korean people put up a stubborn and eventually victorious resistance. In three years of war, they held in check a 1.5 million-strong army of the US and its confederates and forced it to ingloriously sign an armistice agreement in July 1953.

As they are die-hard and bellicose, the US imperialists have not given up their aggressive design upon Korea. Twenty-five years after liberation, Korea is still partitioned and her southern part still occupied by the US aggressors. From 16 divisions after the war, the South Korean build-up has risen to 29 divisions. The US imperialists have overtly introduced into South Korea up-to-date war materials, including tactical nuclear weapons, and strengthened their military and political collusion with the Japanese militarists and Pak Jung Hi reactionary clique.

At present South Korea is a "hell on earth" full of soldiers, policemen, informers and spies whose job it is to arrest and massacre patriots and to oppress and terrorize the people. Regarding North Korea, over the past two decades, the US imperialists and their mayrmidons, the Pak Jung Hi clique, have unceasingly been carrying out sabotage and provocative activities and creating a permanent tension in this area of the Far East.

But the aggressive designs of US imperialism have met with a stiff resistance from the Korean people, North and South.

The detention of the spy ship "Pueblo," the downing of a EC-121 electronic recon plane, the killing and capture of many espions and commandos crossing the military demarcation line, the sinking of a spy ship in the Haiga sea in June last, were efficient stern warnings for the US aggressors and their valets and showed the huge defensive potentialities, the high vigilance and grim determination of the people of the "Chulima" country in the defence of their territory. The People's Democratic Republic of Korea, which is now carrying out socialist construction successfully, steadily and rapidly, is the revolutionary base of the whole of Korea and also a great source of inspiration for the South Korean people in their heroic struggle for vital democratic rights, for the peacefule reunification of the country and for the ousting of the US imperialists from South Korea

In South Korea, the revolutionaries and patriotic-minded people, first and foremost the workers and peasants, are conducting all over the country a drive against the "Japan-ROK security treaty" and against the sending of South Korean youths to Viet Nam to serve as cannon-fodder for the US. Especially since January 1968, there have been in South Korea many armed actions aimed at casting off partially the tyrannical yoke of the US imperialists and their stooges, marking a new turn in the ever growing stubborn struggle of the South Korean people against US aggression.

As close comrades-in-arms of our people, the Korean people have constantly given the South Vietnamese staunch and timely support. The government and people of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea have always regarded "US imperialist aggression in South Viet Nam as aggression against their own country" (1); they continue with might and main "to afford to the South Vietnamese brothers now fighting the common enemy—US imperialism—all their sympathy and support until total victory". (2)

On their part, the South Vietnamese people wholeheartedly back the Korean government's and people's position on the settlement of the Korean problem; they resolutely condemn the US imperialists and their policemen, the Pak Jung Hi clique, for their barbarous repression of the legitimate struggle of the South Koreans, denounce the collusion of the South Korean traitors and the Japanese militarists in the "Japan-ROK security treaty," and condemn the plot of partitioning Korea permanently and all schemes and acts of the enemy infringing upon the sovereignty and territory of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the glorious liberation of Korea, the South Vietnamese people convey to the brother Korean people their greetings of militant solidarity and best wishes. They wish them greater and greater successes in socialist construction and in their efforts for national reunification.

(1), (2): *Joint communiqué issued on the occasion of the Korean visit of the delegation of the South Viet Nam NFL and PRG of RSVN in December 1969.*

Israel's true face

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Cartoon from the US paper *'The Militant.'*

CONGO (B) - SOUTH VIET NAM
LASTING FRIENDSHIP AND MILITANT SOLIDARITY

EXACTLY 7 years ago, after regaining independence from the French colonialists in 1960, the people of Congo (B) rose up in 3 successive days—Aug. 13, 14 and 15, 1963—to overthrow the reactionary regime of Youlsa, an agent of the US. These "3 glorious revolutionary days" have since become the National Day of the People's Republic of the Congo (B).

In that period, continuing their tradition of patriotism and undauntedness, the people of the Congo (B) have been carrying on their fight against imperialism and colonialism and consolidating their national independence while building up their country. They have made a thing the past of their former centuries-old existence as slaves under imperialist and feudal yokes, an existence which was depicted in the following poignant verses by the late Premier Patrice Lumumba, the great son of the Congo (B):

"O my dear Black brother
For thousands of years
You have been crying in the night of a painful life.
Your ashes on this earth
Have been scattered by storms and hurricanes."

In their land of independence and freedom, the people of Congo (B) feel all the more attached to the new regime, and vigilant in face of sabotage and subversive schemes of the imperialists and their agents; they are all the more eager to contribute to the common fight for independence, democracy and peace of the peoples of Africa and the world. On March 23 last, they foiled a coup d'etat staged by the US imperialists and the Youlou-Kihango clique. The republican regime was consolidated in all respects to the despair of the Yankees. This constituted not only a source of legitimate pride for the people of the Congo (B) but also an encouragement for the people of Congo (K) to carry on their resistance to the puppet administration in US pay.

The splendid success of the August 1963 Revolution of the people of Congo (B) has paved the way for a quick development and consolidation of friendly relations of militant solidarity between the brotherly peoples of Viet Nam and the Congo (B). While continually condemning the US war of aggression and barbarous crimes in South Viet Nam, the Congo (B) government and people have more than once expressed their wholehearted support for, and resolute approval of, the South Vietnamese people's anti-US resistance for national salvation and the 10-point overall solution put forth by the NFL and RSVN PRG. The early recognition of the RSVN PRG by the Congo (B) government and its decision to establish diplomatic relations at embassy level with it marked a fresh advance in the happy relations between the two peoples. In December 1969, the Delegation of the RSVN PRG and NFL led by Mr Nguyen Van Quang on a visit to the People's Republic of Congo (B) was accorded a warm welcome by the people and government of Congo (B). On that occasion, "on behalf of the people of Congo, the Central Committee of the Workers' Party, and the Government of Congo (B) once again affirm with solemnity their total and unconditional support until victory for the resistance of the South Vietnamese people under the clearsighted leadership of the RSVN PRG and NFL" (Joint communiqué on the visit of the RSVN PRG and NFL to the People's Republic of Congo (B)).

On the National Day of the brotherly people of Congo (B), the South Vietnamese people wish to convey to the Congo (B) Central Committee of the Workers' Party, Government and people their sincere thanks and warm greetings. We wish the Congo (B) people many more successes in the consolidation of their independence and building of a prosperous Congo (B). We are confident that the friendship and militant solidarity between our two peoples will be strengthened and developed with every passing day.

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Special issue

SOUTH VIET NAM No 71

August 10, 1970

Published by the NFL Information Commission

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